

JOINT PARTICULATE MATTER WORK GROUP CHARTER

1. ESTABLISHMENT, PURPOSE, AND SCOPE

a. ESTABLISHMENT

The Assistant Secretary of Defense (Health Affairs) charts the Joint Particulate Matter Work Group.

b. PURPOSE

The Particulate Matter Work Group will assess the Department of Defense's current activities to identify the potential health issues associated with particulate matter exposure and to determine the potential use of particulate matter as a carrier of chemical and biological warfare agents.

c. SCOPE OF ACTIVITY

The Particulate Matter Work Group will be chaired by the Deputy Director, Deployment Health Support, in the Office of the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense (Force Health Protection and Readiness) and shall have overall responsibility for the implementation of this Charter. The Particulate Matter Work Group shall:

- review what is currently known on the health effects associated with exposures to particulate matter;
- identify if current preventive medicine and surveillance measures are adequate;
- determine whether additional medical follow-up measures are required;
- make recommendations about future research needs, if appropriate; and
- evaluate the adequacy of information on the potential for use of particulate matter as a carrier of chemical and biological warfare agents.

2. ORGANIZATION

a. Membership in the Particulate Matter Work Group shall include representatives from the following organizations:

- i. Assistant Secretary of Defense (Health Affairs)
- ii. Assistant Secretary of the Army (M&RA)
- iii. Assistant Secretary of the Navy (M&RA)
- iv. Assistant Secretary of the Air Force (M&RA) Installations & Environment

- v. Assistant Secretary of Defense (Nuclear, Chemical, and Biological Defense Programs)
 - vi. Director, Defense Intelligence Agency
 - vii. Commander, US Army Medical Research and Materiel Command
- b. The ASD(HA) shall request member organizations to identify their primary and backup representatives by name and organization.
- c. To achieve the objectives of the working group, subgroups will be formed to research and report on three major topic areas; these include:
 - i. Enhanced Surveillance Subgroup: This subgroup will review and comment on the adequacy of current DoD policy to protect service members from particulate matter exposure; and focus on all questions related to the need for improved medical and environmental surveillance measures;
 - ii. Health Effects Research Subgroup: This subgroup will identify knowledge gaps where research studies on the health effects associated with particulate matter exposure could be helpful;
 - iii. Weapons of Mass Destruction Subgroup: this subgroup will review the adequacy of information on the potential for use of particulate matter as a carrier of chemical and biological warfare agents.
- d. A standing member of the Particulate Matter Working Group will chair each subgroup. Membership in the subgroups will come from the working group and affiliate members (DoD and non-DoD) who may be invited because they possess subject matter expertise.
- e. Each subgroup will prepare an action plan describing the subgroup's role, objectives, planned activities, timeline, and an outline of the subgroup's final report. Action plans will be submitted for review and approval to the Chair within 30 days of the signing of this charter.

3. PROCEDURES

- a. The Particulate Matter Work Group Chair will convene the work group as required.
- b. The Chair will brief the ASD(HA) on all activities and recommendations through the DASD(FHP&R), as required.
- c. The membership will ensure communication of work group activities within their respective organizations and will provide their official organizations' positions to help formulate recommendations.
- d. The Chair will coordinate administrative support, as required.

- e. The Chair, based on the reports from the individual subgroups, will provide a final report of activities, accomplishments, findings, and recommendations by December 31, 2005, to the ASD(HA) through the DASD(FHPR).

4. DURATION OF THE WORKING GROUP

This Charter will continue until the release of its final report or until amended, superseded, or revoked.

5. REFERENCES

- a. ASD(HA) Memo, SUBJECT: "Establishment of a Work Group to Investigate the Health Research Requirements Associated with Exposures to Particulate Matter and the Use of Sand as a Potential Delivery Vehicle for Chemical and Biological Agents," January 18, 2005.

Date _____

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